

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227278

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EGEN, CVIS, JA, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - JAPAN, SEPT 7, 1978

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/J - ALAN ROMBERG

1. STRAUSS-NAKAGAWA TALKS (CONFIDENTIAL)

THIS MORNING STRAUSS AND NAKAGAWA CONCLUDED THREE DAYS OF
INTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON BEEF, CITRUS, AND A WIDE VARIETY
OF OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. ALTHOUGH STRAUSS ISSUED A
PRESS STATEMENT CHARACTERIZING THE TALKS AS HAVING ACHIEVED
"SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS", IN FACT THERE ARE STILL DIFFERENCES
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NOT ONLY ON NUMBERS, WHERE WE ARE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT, BUT
MOST IMPORTANTLY ON THE CONCEPT OF EVENTUAL TOTAL LIBERAL-
IZATION (ELIMINATION OF QUOTAS) FOR BOTH CITRUS AND BEEF.
THE TALKS WERE CORDIAL AND WITHOUT RANCOR, BUT THE TOUGH-
NESS OF THE US SIDE CAUSED NAKAGAWA TO BE "QUITE SHOCKED
AND UNHAPPY", AS USHIBA EXPRESSED IT TO ACTING SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER DURING HIS CALL ON WEDNESDAY. IN THE FINAL

SESSION, STRAUSS TOLD NAKAGAWA THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS IN THE POLITICAL INTEREST OF EITHER SIDE TO SETTLE THE ISSUES AT THIS TIME. NAKAGAWA WILL CONSULT WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA AND GET BACK TO STRAUSS.

2. VISIT OF FINANCE VICE MINISTER SAGAMI (UNCLASSIFIED)

VICE MINISTER SAGAMI, WHO RECENTLY REPLACED MATSUKAWA, CALLED ON TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND FEDERAL RESERVE CHAIRMAN MILLER THIS WEEK. SAGAMI WAS IN WASHINGTON EN ROUTE TO PARIS FOR A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE GROUP OF TEN DEPUTIES ON THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK. UNDER-SECRETARY COOPER WAS ON VACATION DURING THE STOPOVER, SO THERE WAS NO MEETING AT STATE, BUT WE WILL ARRANGE TO HAVE A TREASURY REPORTING CABLE SENT TO TOKYO.

3. SUBCABINET MEETING (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE FROM THE JAPANESE TO OUR PROPOSAL TO HOLD A SUBCABINET MEETING IN WASHINGTON ON OCT 3-4. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL GOJ REPLY SOON AND ARE PROCEEDING WITH OUR PREPARATIONS.

4. S & T TALKS (CONFIDENTIAL)

TOKYO REPORTS THAT, AFTER SOME DIFFICULT SIDE-NEGOTIATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE FIRST US-JAPAN DISCUSSIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION (THE FUKUDA INITIATIVE) ENDED SUCCESSFULLY ON SEPTEMBER 6. DESPITE OUR EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EMBASSY HERE, THE JAPANESE APPARENTLY HOPED TO AVOID ADDRESSING SPECIFIC PROJECT PROPOSALS DURING THE FIRST MEETING. BUT BY THE END OF THE TWO-DAY SESSION, BOTH SIDES SETTLED ON A CAREFULLY WORDED INTERIM AGREEMENT WHICH IDENTIFIES PROJECTS (E.G., COOPERATION ON FUSION AND ON COAL CONVERSION) AND WHICH WILL ALSO SERVE EACH SIDE AS THE BASIS FOR FUNDING REQUESTS. THE US SIDE WILL HOST THE NEXT MEETING IN WASHINGTON AT THE "EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE."

5. SECRETARY KREPS' VISIT TO TOKYO (UNCLASSIFIED)

FOLLOWING UP ON YOUR REQUEST, I CALLED FRANK WEIL ON TUES TO OFFER A BRIEFING BY YOU, ERLAND AND ME FOR SECRETARY KREPS BEFORE SHE LEAVES OCT 1 TO LEAD THE US EXPORT DEVELOPMENT MISSION TO JAPAN. FRANK SAID HE THOUGHT IT WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND WOULD HAVE HIS STAFF GET BACK IN TOUCH TO ARRANGE A TIME.

6. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER VISIT TO TOKYO (CONFIDENTIAL)

I CALLED HARRY BERGOLD THIS WEEK REGARDING AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD'S SUGGESTION THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER STOP OFF IN TOKYO ON HIS WAY BACK FROM THE PRC. BERGOLD SAID THAT SCHLESINGER IS AGREEABLE "IN PRINCIPLE" TO A ONE-DAY STOP, BUT THAT THE LEGISLATIVE SITUATION ON THE ENERGY BILL WILL PROBABLY REQUIRE A DELAY IN THE CHINA TRIP. A NEW TARGET DATE HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY ESTABLISHED, BUT TENTATIVE DOE THINKING WOULD PUT SCHLESINGER INTO CHINA THE LAST TEN DAYS OF OCTOBER AND INTO TOKYO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT.

7. JAPAN IN THE UN (CONFIDENTIAL)

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I WILL MEET WITH PETER BRIDGES IN IO/UNP THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS ADDITIONAL STEPS WE MIGHT TAKE IN SUPPORT OF A LARGER JAPANESE ROLE IN THE UN. IN VIEW OF OUR INABILITY TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING AT THIS TIME REGARDING THE ELIMINATION OF THE "ENEMY STATES" CLAUSES FROM THE CHARTER AND IN SUPPORT OF A PERMANENT SC SEAT FOR JAPAN, I WANT TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE OF GREATER US SUPPORT FOR ADDITIONAL SECRETARIAT POSITIONS FOR JAPAN, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL-LEVEL POSITION FOR JAPAN

IN ONE OF THE UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. I ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS HOW WE MIGHT GIVE EFFECT TO OUR PLEDGE OF SUPPORT FOR JAPAN'S CANDIDACY FOR THE NON-PERMANENT SC SEAT IF THE ASIAN GROUP FAILS TO NOMINATE EITHER BANGLADESH OR JAPAN. LOUISE MCNUTT FROM EA/RA WILL JOIN OUR DISCUSSION.

8. TENG HSIAO-PING TO VISIT TOKYO (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

IN MEETING WITH A GROUP OF SENIOR JAPANESE EDITORIAL WRITERS IN PEKING ON SEPT 6, PRC VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING INDICATED HE WOULD TRAVEL TO TOKYO IN LATE OCTOBER TO EXCHANGE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION FOR THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY. THE SAME FBIS REPORT INDICATES THAT THE GOJ WILL ACCORD TENG THE STATUS OF STATE GUEST, INCLUDING AN AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR. THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN TOKYO AND PEKING ON THE TIMING OF THE TENG VISIT (THE GOJ PREFERRED TO HAVE IT IN EARLY OCTOBER), BUT TENG'S ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATES THAT THAT PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED.

9. WAIVER OF NONIMMIGRANT VISAS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

THE SECRETARY HAS APPROVED BEN READ'S RECOMMENDATION
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THAT WE SEEK LEGISLATION PERMITTING A SELECTIVE WAIVER OF VISAS FOR BUSINESSMEN AND TOURISTS ON 90 DAY VISITS FROM THE 20 LOWEST-RISK COUNTRIES (WHICH WOULD INCLUDE JAPAN). OMB SUPPORTS THIS, BUT INS AND JUSTICE CAN BE EXPECTED TO OBJECT. READ HAS INDICATED THAT STRONG WHITE HOUSE BACKING WILL BE NECESSARY. YOU WILL RECALL THAT THE JULY CULCON SESSION ADOPTED AS ONE OF ITS CHIEF RECOMMENDATIONS A PROPOSAL THAT SHORT-TERM VISAS BE WAIVED BETWEEN THE US AND JAPAN. IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS ABLE TO PUT FORTH A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL, I WOULD SUGGEST WE TRY TO GET SOME OF THE PRIVATE CULCON MEMBERS TO TESTIFY IN ITS FAVOR. YOU SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THE JAPANESE ARE LIKELY TO RESIST WAIVING VISAS FOR BUSINESS VISITORS, SO APPROVAL BY CONGRESS WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN SUCCESS. CHRISTOPHER

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